

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1-5, 9-10 and 20 as follows:

1. (Three times amended) An acid-dye and coffee stain resistant carpet comprising:

a backing material; and

stain resistant sheath/core bicomponent face fibers affixed in said backing material and bound thereto, said face fibers having a core component of nylon 6; and a sheath which is from about 3 to about 90 [15] weight % of the fiber and which substantially or completely covers said core and which sheath is of a [second] polyamide component which is inherently chemically compatible with said nylon 6 [first polyamide component], said inherently compatible [second] polyamide component comprising at least one stain resistant polyamide polymer selected from the group consisting of:

(a) $[\text{NH}-(\text{CH}_2)_x-\text{NH}-\text{CO}-(\text{CH}_2)_y-\text{CO}]_n$

where x and y may be the same or different integers from about 4 to about 30, at least one of x or y is [the sum of x and y is] greater than 22 [13], and n is greater than about 40; and

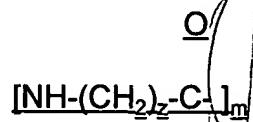
(b) $[\text{NH}-(\text{CH}_2)_z-\text{O}-\text{C}(=\text{O})]_m$

where z is an integer from about 23 [9] to about 30 and m is greater than about 40;

(c) derivatives of [(a)]

$[\text{NH}-(\text{CH}_2)_x-\text{NH}-\text{CO}-(\text{CH}_2)_y-\text{CO}]_n$

where x and y may be the same or different integers from about 4 to about 30, the sum of x and y is greater than 13, and n is greater than about 40; and



where z is an integer from about 9 to about 30 and m is greater than about 40;
including derivative polymers substituted with one or more sulfonate, halogenate, aliphatic or aromatic functionality; and

(d) copolymers and blends of (a), (b) and (c);

wherein said fiber has a percent steam heatsetting shrinkage value which is about 70% or less of a percent steam heatsetting shrinkage value of an otherwise identical fiber consisting of only said first polyamide component; and

said carpet in an uncolored state having a red drink staining depth of less than 15 CIE ΔE units and a coffee staining depth of less than about 10 CIE ΔE units.

2. (Amended) The carpet of claim 1, wherein said inherently compatible [second] polyamide component has a concentration of titratable amino end-groups less than 30 milliequivalents per kilogram.

3. (Amended) The carpet of claim 2, wherein said concentration of titratable amino end-groups in said inherently compatible [second] polyamide polymer is less than 5 milliequivalents per kilogram.

4. (Amended) The carpet of claim 1, wherein said inherently compatible [second] polyamide polymer is substantially sulfonate-free.

5. (Amended) The carpet of claim 1, wherein said [second] polyamide polymer is substituted nylon 6/12 or nylon 12.

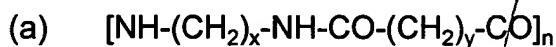
9. (Amended) The carpet of claim 3, wherein said core [first polyamide] component has an amine-end-group concentration from greater than about 5 to less than about 100 milliequivalents per kilogram.

10. (Amended) The carpet of claim 9, wherein said core [first polyamide] component has an amine-end-group concentration of from about 20 to about 50 milliequivalents per kilogram.

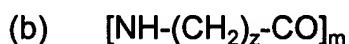
Please cancel claims 18 and 19.

20. (Amended) An acid-dye and coffee stain resistant carpet comprising:
a backing material; and
stain resistant sheath/core bicomponent face fibers affixed in said backing material and bound thereto;

said face fibers comprising: a core of a first polyamide component; and a sheath occupying from about 3 to less than about 10 percent of the fiber and substantially or completely covering said core, said sheath comprising a second polyamide component which is inherently chemically compatible with said first polyamide component, said second polyamide component comprising at least one stain resistant polyamide polymer selected from the group consisting of:



where x and y may be the same or different integers from about 4 to about 30, the sum of x and y is greater than 13, and n is greater than about 40; and



where z is an integer from about 9 to about 30 and m is greater than about 40;

(c) derivatives of (a) or (b) including polymers substituted with one or more sulfonate, halogenate, aliphatic or aromatic functionality; and

(d) copolymers and blends of (a), (b) and (c);

wherein said fiber has a percent steam heatsetting shrinkage value which is about 70% or less of a percent steam heatsetting shrinkage value of an otherwise identical fiber consisting of only said first polyamide component; and

said carpet in an uncolored state having a red drink staining depth of less than 15 CIE ΔE units and a coffee staining depth of less than about 10 CIE ΔE units.